

Chapter 2.29

VETERANS' RELIEF

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2.29.010 Veterans' organizations to provide relief—Registration.

Each Congressionally chartered veterans' organization in Clark County wishing to provide relief to indigent veterans shall register with the Clark County auditor and the veterans' resource committee (CCVRC) during October of each year, and shall provide a copy of the organization's chartered and a letter of appointment which will provide the name and signatures of the commander/president and adjutant/secretary authenticating said submission. Each organization so registered will be offered membership in the Clark County veterans' resource committee. The filing required by this section shall be valid only until December of the following year. The CCVRC shall maintain a copy of the member organization charter and signatures on file. (Sec. 2, Res. 1978-01-79; amended by Sec. 1, Res. 1981-11-78; amended by Sec. 1, Res. 1981-12-107; amended by Sec. 2 of Res. 1983-07-44; amended by Sec. 1 of Res. 1991-05-01; amended by Sec. 1 of Ord. 1997-05-17; amended by Sec. 1 of Ord. 2004-07-12)

2.29.020 Reporting.

Clark County veterans' resource committee shall maintain as permanent records and shall file each October with the Clark County department of community services a detailed statement of the amount of relief furnished during the preceding year, and the names of all persons to whom such relief shall have been furnished, together with a brief statement of the basis for relief from the relief committee upon whose recommendations the orders were drawn and shall provide appropriate reports as requested by member veterans organizations and/or other approved support agencies of Clark County. (Sec. 3, Res. 1978-01-79; amended by Sec. 2 of Res. 1991-05-01; amended by Sec. 2 of Ord. 2004-07-12)

2.29.025 Clark County veterans' resource committee.

The Clark County veterans' resource committee shall consist of appointed or elected representatives of congressionally chartered veterans' organizations that have registered with the veterans' resource committee in accordance with Section 2.29.010. The Clark County veterans' resource committee shall act as an advisory group to Clark County in all matters regarding veterans' relief and/or other assistance approved by the CCVRC. The CCVRC may enter into contracts with the county, or other agencies, to provide for administration of the Veterans' Relief Fund as authorized by Chapter [73.08](#) RCW. (Sec. 2, Ord. 1997-05-17; amended by Sec. 3 of Ord. 2004-07-12)

2.29.030 A County service officer.

Clark County, in conjunction with the Clark County veterans' resource committee, shall provide for administration of veterans' relief, and will provide and appoint an individual to act as the veteran's service officer. The veteran's service officer shall be responsible to Clark County and CCVRC for determining and certifying veteran eligibility, insuring compliance with the rules governing aid as required by Clark County Code Section [2.29.040](#) up to and including Section [2.29.090](#). The veteran's service officer shall also provide for issuance of vouchers and daily administration of the relief fund. (Sec. 3, Ord. 1997-05-17; amended by Sec. 4 of Ord. 2004-07-12)

2.29.035 Contracting for services.

Clark County, or other agencies under contract with the Clark County veterans' resource committee to provide for the administration of veterans' relief or veterans' support programs, shall be authorized to enter into contracts with other individual, organizations and agencies to provide for services for qualified veterans at the request of the Clark County veterans' resource committee; provided, the contract is in compliance with Chapter [73.08](#) RCW, the Clark County Code, and the contract between the Clark County veterans' resource committee and the agency providing services. The amount of the contract shall be limited to the amount recommended by the Clark County veterans' resource committee and approved by Clark County. All proposals from individuals, agencies and/or organizations desiring to support veterans shall be heard,

reviewed by the CCVRC with their recommendations forward to Clark County. (Sec. 4, Ord. 1997-05-17; amended by Sec. 5 of Ord. 2004-07-12)

2.29.040 Rules.

Veterans' aid administration rules adopted.

The rules and regulations set out in Sections [2.29.050](#) through [2.29.090](#) of this chapter are adopted and are to be controlling in the administration of the operational functioning of furnishing veterans' relief and/or assistance through appropriate agencies approved by Clark County. (Sec. 5, Res. 1978-01-79; amended by Sec. 5 of Ord. 1997-05-17; amended by Sec. 6 of Ord. 2004-07-12)

2.29.050 Eligibility for veterans' aid.

(1) No veteran or member of his/her family shall be entitled to receive veterans' aid unless they and/or their family have been legal residents of the state of Washington for not less than twelve (12) months immediately prior to the application for relief. Proof of residence qualifications must be made to the satisfaction of the veteran's service officer responsible for providing veterans' relief and applicants are required to furnish reasonable proof in support thereof.

(2) The applicant shall furnish documentary evidence showing that the applicant meets the definition of "veteran" as defined in RCW [41.04.007](#) as amended.

(3) Proof that the veteran and/or their family have exhausted their resources and other sources of assistance available to them is required, including but not limited to unemployment compensation, veterans' administration grants, and pensions, public assistance, private insurance coverage, and other available sources of revenue, or that the need is for immediate aid and relief is not immediately available from other sources of the public welfare agency. (Sec. 6, Res. 1978-01-79; amended by Sec. 4 of Res. 1991-05-01; amended by Sec. 6 of Ord. 1997-05-17; amended by Sec. 7 of Ord. 2004-07-12)

2.29.060 Death benefits.

No death benefit shall be paid toward burial of a veteran until the applicant has furnished proof by affidavit or other documentary evidence that sufficient funds are not available to the individual to provide for the burial of the veteran. Death benefits shall be limited to the amount stated in the policies and procedures manual for the Veterans Assistance Fund. Sufficient funds are available if death benefits have been paid by any other government agency including, but not limited to the Veterans' Administration, Department of Social Security, fraternal union or personal insurance, from any other source there are sufficient resources in the deceased's estate to defray the cost of burial. (Sec. 7, Res. 1978-01-79; amended by Sec. 5 of Res. 1991-05-01; amended by Sec. 7 of Ord. 1997-05-17; amended by Sec. 8 of Ord. 2004-07-12)

2.29.070 Limitations on relief benefits.

Limitations on relief and/or assistance shall be prescribed in the Clark County policies and procedures manual for Veterans' Assistance Fund and shall be reviewed annually by the CCVRC and the recommended changes shall be forwarded to Clark County for approval. (Sec. 8, Res. 1978-01-79; amended by Sec. 6 of Ord. 1983-06-33; amended by Sec. 6 of Res. 1991-05-01; amended by Sec. 9 of Ord. 1997-05-17)

2.29.080 Rule 4: Applications for relief and warrants.

- (1) No applications for relief will be honored or warrants issued except to cover emergency need. Each application for relief shall be signed by the applicant that the application is for emergency need and not to supplement any other pensions, insurance compensation, or public assistance received by the veterans or his family.
- (2) The veteran's service officer is authorized to refuse to approve an application for relief for any purpose where it has been determined after investigation that the person is not entitled to relief for any of the following reasons:
 - (a) Having remained on homeless prevention assistance for three (3) or more consecutive years;
 - (b) Misrepresentation in applying for relief; or
 - (c) Having received relief from more than one (1) county, veterans' post or organization in a single year. (Sec. 9, Res. 1979-01-78; amended by Sec. 2 of Ord. 1983-06-33; amended by Sec. 7 of Res. 1991-05-01; amended by Sec. 9 of Ord. 1997-05-17)

2.29.085 Screening of applicants.

- (1) The veteran's service officer shall screen each applicant applying for relief, to determine if such person is qualified for relief pursuant to the requirements and restrictions of this chapter and the policies and procedures manual for Veterans Assistance Fund.
- (2) The veteran's service officer shall determine if each application and voucher are in compliance with the funding limitations outlined in this chapter and the policies and procedures manual for Veterans Assistance Fund.
- (3) Individuals applying for benefits and subsequently denied the same by the county service officer may appeal such decision, or request a waiver of other than state regulated requirements, by applying in writing, with all supporting documentation, to the Clark County veterans' resource appeals committee. Said committee's decision on all appeals, or requests for waivers, will be final. (Sec. 3 of Res. 1981-11-78; amended by Sec. 4 of Ord. 1983-06-33; amended by Sec. 8 of Res. 1991-05-01; amended by Sec. 10 of Ord. 1997-05-17; amended by Sec. 10 of Ord. 1997-05-17)

2.29.090 Rule 6: Payment of rental of meeting place.

No voucher issued for payment of rent for a meeting place of any veterans' organization registered as a non-profit agency with the Washington Secretary of State, shall be in an amount greater than the sum actually to be paid for such meeting place, including rent, lights, heating and utilities. The county shall require necessary supporting documents with the applications. No rent applications shall be accepted and paid for rent unless presented for voucher during the calendar year for which it applies. "Rent" shall not include any payment for acquisition of the property by any method. (Sec. 10, Res. 1978-01-79; amended by Sec. 5 of Ord. 1983-06-33; amended by Sec. 11 of Ord. 1997-05-17)